



Southeast News

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UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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NUMBER 1

DEADLINES AND LIFELINES

If the United Church of Christ can be said to provide some of "God's Hands" to accomplish God's work in today's world, then perhaps one might say that the regular stream of giving by members of our denomination forms a kind of "lifeline" on the palm of that hand. As we give more, the lifeline lengthens, symbolizing the fact that more of God's work can be accomplished in the world.

The end of the calendar year is always a time when deadlines mark off the length of that lifeline for another year. The Internal Revenue Service insists that for tax purposes an individual's gift must be received in the year for which it is counted. Conferences generally close their books early in January to allow the Treasurers of local churches time to remit their final December receipts for Our Christian World Mission. And the deadline for closing the national books of the United Church of Christ is set in mid-January to allow for the forwarding of national Basic Support and other nationally administered money to the Treasurer of the United Church of Christ.

This reminder, then, is very simple: For a long lifeline, remember the deadlines. And once again, thank you for your support! A statement of OCWM goals is included in this issue.

Suggestions for Lent

1. Use phase 2 of the Christian Enlistment Guide with small group discussions to determine the needs of the local and wider mission of the Church.
2. "Explore Our Christian Heritage" as found in the Second Semester theme of the United Church Curriculum.
3. Use the Monthly Bible Study from A.D. as special Lenten programs.
4. Use the Friendship Press resources for Adults and Youth on "A Nation Under God" to examine our nation's ideals and practices in light of the Christian faith.
5. Inform the congregation about the needs which can be met by the One Great Hour of Sharing March 28, 1976 Offering.
6. Plan a Spiritual Life Retreat for Church officers and leaders for Lent.
7. Prepare a series of services for Holy



One Great Hour of Sharing is helping to heal in the Philippines through the Rural Life Center in Pala Pala, where Dick and Marvel Fagan, missionaries of the United Church Board for World Ministries, are the directors. For the Filipino, a pig is a source of food and also a symbol of security. Just think of how the gift multiplies! Money from One Great Hour of Sharing made possible the purchase of 14 pigs at the Rural Life Center. In four years after the date of purchase, 350 pigs had been given to families on a loan basis, which means that the piglets from the first litter were returned to the center for redistribution. That's not all! In addition, 200 pigs were sold for breeding and 125 were sold to the butcher. Thus, One Great Hour of Sharing dollars, which were used to buy the first 14 pigs, kept on giving for a total of 675 pigs in four years.

This is but one example of many ways you help heal the hurts of people in over 40 countries around the world.

Help heal — give generously to One Great Hour of Sharing on the Fourth Sunday of Lent, March 28, 1976, or whenever your church elects to do so.

Week, April 11-18.

8. Encourage your minister and spouse to attend the Ministers' Convocation at Camp Sumatanga, April 26-28, 1976.

OCLL Staff, Directors Meet in Atlanta

The Office for Church Life and Leadership had its staff and directors to meet in Atlanta, Ga., Nov. 20-23, 1975. Rev. Reuben Sheares is the Executive Director. The Southeast Conference presented a pictorial and person program on Saturday showing churches and people of the Conference, followed by the Five-year program of the Conference being developed, testimonials of "Faith Exploration Strengthening the Local Church," and other programs in which the Office for Church Life and Leadership had helped.

Those present from Southeast Conference: Franklin Thomas, H.C. McEwen, Warren Blankenhorn, Roy Bain, Trudi Sanford, Yubenia Prigmore, Jackie Shrago, James Fields, Mr. and Mrs. J.K. Murphy, Freda Brown, Mr. and Mrs. W.J. Andes, Juanita Velasco.

Bishop Lessard heads Inter-Church Group

The Most Rev'd. Raymond W. Lessard, Episcopal Bishop of Savannah, was elected President of the Georgia Interchurch Group, for a two year term.

Other officers are: Vice-Pres., Bishop William R. Cannon of the United Methodist Church; Secretary, Mrs. Carlton Carruth, Chairman Ecumenical Concerns, United Methodist Church, South Georgia Conference; and Treasurer, Rev'd. Dr. William J. Andes, Conference Minister, United Church of Christ, Southeast Conference.

A program was presented to the quarterly meeting of the Executive Board by the Georgia Department of Corrections/Offender Rehabilitation. Considerable interest was expressed by the group in Penal Reform and Criminal Justice.

Three members of the Joint Educational Development-Youth Empowerment Team were introduced to the Executive Board and spoke of their task of youth maturation in the Church.

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THE MINISTER'S WORD

D. L. Beebe

One of the important features of the Christian faith is the fact that something happened. From time to time someone comes along who tells us that it doesn't really matter much whether or not God did become incarnate, get His feet dirty and Himself crucified, "under Pontius Pilate." The important point, he says, is that the nature of God is such that He would be willing to do so for us.

But it does matter. If God is willing to be one of us, then why isn't He? As a matter of fact, it is terribly important to Christians that "Truth" isn't an abstract. Truth happened, and He had a human name.

Yet if the Christian faith (along with its mother, the Hebrew faith) is so enmeshed and interwoven with history then that also means that we are stuck with a lot of ambiguities and problems. "Egypt," for instance, because the Hebrews were delivered by Yahweh from Egypt, becomes a symbol for captivity, and the slavery of sin.

A similar problem is the slightly antisemitic clash of certain words in the Gospel of John, viz. "for fear of the Jews." We might fix that one up by translating "Judeans" — in fact, I think we should. And we have begun to repent publicly for Christian anti-semitism. We ought to; we follow a Jewish Rabbi after all. But we can't honestly expurgate the New Testament.

The point is that the Christian faith is not based on purified, rarified, abstract "truths." It is based on an Incarnation — a becoming-embodied, a becoming-human. That being the case, we shall always have to confront the human and historical ambiguities both with candor and with charity.

For God to become Man, He had to choose an idiom. And all God's children stammer!!

--- Mrs. Ollie V. Taylor - - -

Mrs. Ollie Vandever Taylor, mother of Mrs. Anna (Joe A.) French, of Roanoke, Alabama, died November 29, 1975, at the age of 100 years and 34 days. Her husband, M.L. Taylor, died 18 years ago. She was a native of Cumberland County, Tenn., and her funeral was held at Taylor's Chapel Church, Crossville, Tn.

Mrs. Taylor had made her home with her daughter for one-fourth of her life. She is survived also by one daughter-in-law, four grandchildren, six great-grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

A Renewed Church

Almost a year has passed since the Rev. Charles Bell accepted the challenge to rebuild the congregation at Hunt Memorial Church in Alexander City, Alabama. Arriving at the church on a cold February morning, he was greeted warmly by 25 well-wishers, but only one church member. Miss Audry Clark, clerk of the Church and sole member, expressed her concern and offered all her resources to assist the Church in becoming active again. With the offer of help from her and other concerned folk of the community, Mr. Bell agreed to become pastor.

The Association Men's Fellowship and their ministers have contributed hundreds of hours of labor and building materials to restore the church house to its original beauty. Upon the suggestion of the Rev. Bill Hodnett, the Valley Cluster Women's Fellowship of the Association founded "The Living Coin of the UCC Women" — 10c a week per person collected in special coin folders and turned in at both the Valley Cluster and Columbus-Phenix City Cluster "Fifth Sunday Night Sings." Other Churches not in these Cluster groups are sharing in the project, too.

The parsonage is being remodeled and the pastor and wife will soon be moving in. Mr. Leon Lee, a lay-speaker from the Langdale Church, has completely rewired the parsonage and the church house.

In a recent meeting, the members voted to change the name to The First Congregational Church of Alexander City. To date, over 25 people have joined the reorganized Church. Mr. Bell has set a goal of 150 members in five years. At 25 new people per year, this challenge goal will be met.

Warren A. Blankenhorn

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- February 6 — Commission on Church and Ministry, Atlanta First Church.
- February 7 — Commission on Christian Education, Atlanta First Church.
- February 15 — Executive Committee, Atlanta.
- February 16 — Board of Directors, Atlanta. Ramada Inn-Airport
- February 20 — Morgan-Scott Project Resource Advisory Committee, First United Methodist Church, Oak Ridge, Tenn.
- February 20 — Ala-Tenn. Association Officers, Chattanooga.
- February 21 — Ala-Tenn. Association Officers and Committees, Chattanooga.

- March 3 — Ash Wednesday
- March 5 — World Day of Prayer
- March 7 — First Sunday in Lent
- March 28 — One Great Hour of Sharing.

EAST ALABAMA ASSOCIATION REPORTS

The minutes of the October 11, 1975, session are not yet completed. The Committees are:

Church & Ministry — Harold N. Auler, Ch., Olin E. Sheppard, David Chandler;

Christian Education — J.K. Murphy, Ch., Mrs. Martha Lauderdale, Alton M. Nixon.

Outreach — James E. Cowlshaw, Ch., Mrs. A.D. Harry, Fred M. Morris.

A high percentage of Our Christian World Mission goals were paid in full by the churches. 40 percent of the O.C.W.M. funds have been forwarded to Southeast Conference for the wider mission of the church and 60 percent of the funds are retained in the East Alabama Association for the work of the Association and of the S. Alabama Area Council.

A Christmas gift of \$100 each was sent to Mrs. Winfred L. Walters, Mrs. A.C. Nelson, Mrs. A.H. Sheppard, Mrs. J.H. Dollar, and the Rev. Roy Walker from the Ministerial Relief funds.

From the O.C.W.M. funds, we have paid \$500 to the 17/76 Achievement Funds, \$300 to Elon Home for Children, \$300 to Uplands Retirement Center at Pleasant Hill, Tn., and \$125 to Terry Clark for seminary expenses.

Joe A. French, Moderator

Officers of the East Alabama Association Men's Fellowship met Jan. 11, and planned for the annual Ladies' Night extravaganza to be held Feb. 21, at Southern Union College, Wadley, Ala.

President Horace Welch and his flamboyant staff are sparing no expense for this gala event — corsages for the ladies, a fabulous door prize, and numerous prizes for lucky winners. The attendance trophy for the year is to be presented. The Outstanding Layman of the Year is to be honored, and ministers are to receive special recognition. East Alabama's own Willie McGill will bring both light and inspiration music to the gathering.

Then, to put the frosting on this already fabulous cake, that famous entrepreneur, J.K. Murphy, will direct the production of the season, "A Womanless Wedding" featuring the stars and super-stars (and some yet undiscovered talent) from our own men's fellowships!

The East Alabama Men's Fellowship invites everyone to this fun and fellowship function. Reservations should be sent to Dr. A.R. VanCleave, P.O. Box 73, Wadley,

Ala. 36276.

W.A. Blankenhorn

What a Way to Go!

On October 29, 1975, we boarded the Lykes Line Ship, SOLOM TURMAN, a freighter, for a trip to Israel. In Mobile, we picked up six fellow travelers: a couple from Oregon, a couple from New York City, and two men from Texas, and began the fourteen day journey to our first stop. We went through the "Hole in the Wall" (straits of Gibraltar) and hugged the north coast of Africa, passing close enough to be able to lip-read if we had understood the language. Finally, we docked at the ancient city of Ashdod, but a modern port. Using the ship as our hotel, we traveled to Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Ashkelon, Tel Aviv, Jericho, the Dead Sea, and the ancient fortress of Masada.

The ship then proceeded to Haifa, a beautiful city sprawling up Mt. Carmel. Besides becoming familiar with Haifa and Acre, we made excursions to Nazareth, where we spent an entire day, and another day to the Lake of Galilee, where we enjoyed eating lunch outdoors on the water's edge at Tiberias, looking toward Capernaum and the Golan Heights.

We crossed the northern Mediterranean, passing through the Straits of Messina, the first daytime passage through for everyone in the crew, so we had a close view of Mt. Etna in Sicily and four port stops in Italy and Spain. We found Pompeii interesting and went by hydrofoil to the Isle of Capri. Our Thanksgiving Day dinner was Italian spaghetti at a charming restaurant in Naples. We took a bus to Pisa to view the Tower and attend Mass at the Cathedral. Yes, we also attended Mass in the Grotto of the Annunciation in Nazareth and the Cathedral in Barcelona.

We fell in love with Florence, Italy, and also with Barcelona, where our ship was docked right downtown, two blocks from the statue to Columbus.

We discharged the New York couple in Israel and the Texans in Naples, but picked up replacements: an anthropologist from Venezuela who has spent the past decade making a thorough study of Indian tribes in that country; a woman native of Italy, and a young couple from Knoxville who had gone to Europe by Polish freighter and lived in Spain two months.

With our ambition to visit the holy land together realized and our pilgrimage completed, we now look forward to reminiscing at our leisure and to distilling the learning and inspiration the journey brought us.

Alice Johnson, Birmingham

John and Emily Crozier send greetings from India, thanking all for continued interest, prayers, and support. They have taken over an important church in Bombay, but continue in Ahmednagar and Nasrapur. Support of a student or small project would help.

News Items —

HERE AND THERE

"It's a pity, as the Bicentennial year dawns, that we've picked the wrong year to celebrate," says a seminary senior at Gordon-Conwell Seminary.

It may be too late to call off the nation's two-hundredth birthday party, but the date we should be celebrating is not the organizational birth of the nation in 1777, but the spiritual declaration of independence in 1740 — when Jonathan Edwards, pastor to Northampton Congregationalists and George Whitfield, an exceptional British evangelist, brought about the Great Awakening in the Colonies. (Lanett Newsletter).

Miss May Bryant, R.N., who has served as Director of Nursing Service at Wharton Home, Uplands, since 1971, resigned as of January 15, 1976. The Executive Committee of the Uplands Board accepted her resignation, "with good wishes for an enjoyable retirement after a life of dedicated service," that the two weeks prior to Jan. 15 be granted as vacation with pay; and "that a committee be appointed to plan a farewell reception event that will benefit Miss Bryant's devotion to her tasks here at Uplands."

If you are not using the U.C.C. or Shalom Curricula and have any copies sitting around gathering dust, please send them to the Conference Library. There are churches who could make use of these materials if they could be obtained on a loan basis. The Conference Library has only one complete set and must retain that for display and Conference Workshops. — Juanita Velasco.

BROOKMEADE Church, Nashville, Tn., has a Long Range Planning Committee at work with facilitator Rev. Arnold Slater, retired minister. On Feb. 15, the Committee will present its recommendations to the congregation.

Also at Brookmeade, "Stewardship Feasts" were held in five family homes. Good food and fellowship were shared, as well as mutual concerns in this congregation dedicated to "make a difference in its own congregation and its community."

Mr. Alfred Earl McEwen, baritone, gave a benefit performance for the 17/76 Achievement Fund for the six A.M.A. colleges Sunday February 8, 1976, in the sanctuary of First Congregational Church, Atlanta. The financial response supplements the individual gifts of the members to the Achievement Fund. The Church has pledged 100 shares, for a total of \$18,000.

Mr. McEwen is a brother of the pastor, Homer C. McEwen, and has sung in Germany, France, as well as in the U.S.A.

S. Ala.-N. W. Fla.

on the Move

The Ministers and Executive Committee of the South Alabama-Northwest Florida Association met Jan. 9, at Crestview, Fla., and planned the year's work. The Ministers are to meet for dinner on the second Friday of each month in 1976.

It was voted to hold two "Fun and Fellowship Functions" this year for all the people of the Association with both Ministers and Lay people in attendance. The first of these is Friday, Feb. 13, at Good Hope Church, Baker, Fla. Pyron's Chapel Church, just 14 miles away, is to be co-host. The theme of this function is to be a "Sweetheart Banquet." The other fun and fellowship function theme is to be the Bi-Centennial; Chaplain Bob Tripp is working on the program, to be in the summer.

During the January meeting, concern was expressed that we have ministers of our own denomination to conduct our revival services. Ministers desiring a week or portion of a week in sunny Florida or South Alabama near Florida's fabulous Miracle Strip — contact the Rev. Roy Bain — Rt. 1, Box 262, Baker, Fla. 32531 — Chairman of the Committee on Church and Ministry. The ministers of this Association would also like to be invited to help in revivals of our sister Associations' churches. Mr. Bain will be happy to furnish their names and addresses.

Warren A. Blankenhorn

A Thank-You from Celia Lloyd

A student at Fisk University from the Virgin Islands, and beneficiary of funds provided by the 17/76 Achievement Fund, says: "I grew up in an environment which lacked the great sophistication prevalent in many cities of the U.S. I am the fourth child of a family of eleven; our parents could afford us a very moderate upbringing, only. We would be considered poor or underprivileged. During my early years of high school training I had very little hope of attending a college in the near future. However, through the 17/76 Fund, I was able to enter Fisk and prepare to be a physician — my ambition — and go on to medical school. I offer my sincere thanks to you and organizations like yours who have made my dream a reality. Many of us would never have made it without you!"

Rev. Hugh Lasseter is the pastor of New Hope Church, Clio, Alabama, while working in Montgomery, Ala.

Dr. Grant S. Shockley became President of Interdenominational Theological Center, Atlanta, Ga., January 1.

Legislative Seminar Held in Atlanta

A Churchmen's Legislative Seminar was held in Atlanta January 7. The seminar featured members of the Georgia Assembly and State administration.

Sponsored by the Georgia Interchurch Association, the gathering was held from 9:15 a.m. until 6 p.m. at Central Presbyterian Church on South Washington Street.

According to Jackson P. Braddy, Coordinator of the Georgia Interchurch Association, "The Churchmen's Legislative Seminar is held annually to gather information and develop understanding by the Church people of Georgia on issues facing the Legislature. It is not to be considered a lobby or pressure group in any way."

Welcoming participants was Norman L. Underwood, Executive Secretary to Governor George L. Busbee. Dr. Edward Jackson, of the Institute of Government of the University of Georgia, spoke. "How a Bill Becomes Law" was the topic of House of Representatives Speaker Tom Murphy and Lieutenant Governor Zell Miller.

Others participating on the program were Legislative Counsel Frank H. Edwards, Pete Hackney and James McIntyre.

Edwards, Legislative Counsel of the Georgia Assembly, described the functions of his office. Hackney and McIntyre, of the budget staff of the Governor's office and General Assembly, spoke on the Georgia State budget.

Following a luncheon break, the churchmen were addressed by various Legislature Committee heads. Among those participating are: Representative Sidney J. Marcus, Health and Ecology Committee; representing the Senate were Senator Howard T. Overby, Judiciary Committee and Senator W.W. Fincher, Jr., Human Resources Committee.

Later in the afternoon, various State Department heads appeared as follows: From the Dept. of Education: Dr. Don Edwards representing Jack P. Nix, Superintendent of Schools; Jim Parham of the Dept. of Human Resources; Dr. Allen Ault, Director of Offender Rehabilitation and Sam Caldwell, Commissioner of the Georgia Dept. of Labor.

The Seminar concluded with a recap and response given by Legislative Task Force Chairman Cheatham E. Hodges and Rev. Lowry W. Anderson, Executive Director of the Georgia Council on Moral and Civic Concerns.

Rev. Collie Seymour, pastor of First United Church of Christ in Belvidere, Tennessee, was selected as the third place winner in the 1975 Soil Stewardship Sermon Awards sponsored by the Tennessee Association of Conservation Districts.

LOCAL CHURCH O. C. W. M. GOALS — 1976

At the 1973 annual meeting of the Southeast Conference, it was voted that the minimum O.C.W.M. Basic Support goal for any church should be an amount equal to 10 percent of the amount spent for local current expenses, using the latest Year Book figures.

When the amount given for O.C.W.M. was more than 7.5 percent of current expenses, the goal should be an additional 2.5 percent of local current expenses added to the previous achievement. (Example: A church gave \$120 for OCWM and had local expenses of \$1,000. This equals a 12 percent ratio. The new goal would be a 14.5 percent ratio of \$1,000 or \$145.)

The 1976 O.C.W.M. (Our Christian World Mission) Basic Support Goals are:

Georgia-South Carolina Association

Church	1976 Goal
Ambrose, Christian	\$202
Atlanta, Carroll Heights	50
Atlanta, Central	9770
Atlanta, First	7706
Atlanta, Rush Memorial	1422
Barnesville, Fredonia	50
Beachton, Evergreen	200
Bowman, Liberty	30
Braselton, Macedonia	299
Buford, Duncan's Creek	437
Charleston, Plymouth	1226
Demorest, Federated	607
Jonesboro, Bonanza	3313
Macon, First	50
McIntosh, Midway	694
Richland, First	41
Savannah, First	1028
Thomasville, Bethany	384

ALABAMA-TENNESSEE ASSOCIATION

[*North Alabama Association]

Alpine, King's Chapel	170
*Arley, C.C.	82
Athens, Trinity	50
Belvidere, First United	3633
Birmingham, First	3372
Birmingham, Pilgrim	5377
*Caddo, First	717
Chattanooga, First	426
Chattanooga, Pilgrim	9274
Crossville, First	1744
Cullman, St. John	4400
Daisy, First	50
Deer Lodge, C.C.	269
Evarts, First	442
Garden City, C.C.	720
Glen Mary, C.C.	166
*Hackleburg, Fairview	50
*Haleyville, Union Grove	423
*Hanceville, Mt. Grove	213
*Houston, Liberty Hill	40
Huntsville, United	2190
Knoxville, Church of the Savior	2900
Marion, First	265
Montgomery, First	922

*Moulton, Jones Chapel	223
Nashville, Brookmeade	1235
Nashville, First	4211
Nashville, Howard	440
Pleasant Hill, Community	2460
Robbins, Barton Chapel	257
*Steele, Mt. Lebanon	50
Sweetwater, First	541
Talladega, First	448
Tougaloo, Union	224
*Town Creek, Old Liberty	440

SOUTHERN ALABAMA AREA

Central Alabama Association	
East Tallassee, C.C.	1196
Eclectic, Watsons Chapel	
Mountain Creek, Union	518
Seman, Community	335
Tallassee, Mt. Olive	50
Wetumpka, Balm of Gilead	50

South Alabama-NW Florida Association

Andalusia, Antioch	565
Andalusia, First	698
Baker, Good Hope	690
Baker, Pyron Chapel	216
Bonifay, New Effort	50
Brantley, Indian Creek	25
Brantley, Liberty	9
Clio, New Hope	470
Headland, Blackwood	679

East Alabama Association

Alexander City, Hunt Memorial	150
Columbus, First	800
Columbus, United	450
Dadeville, Elder	650
Five Points, State Line	200
LaFayette, Pleasant Grove	500
LaGrange, Hillside	1000
LaGrange, United	1300
Lanett, C.C.	5100
Lanett, Huguley	500
Langdale, C.C.	3700
Lineville, New Harmony	200
Phenix City, First	750
Phenix City, Russell Woods	650
Pine Mt., Oak Grove	1700
Pisgah	400
Roanoke, Antioch	500
Roanoke, Bethany	450
Roanoke, First	600
Roanoke, Forest Home	450
Roanoke, Lowell	1000
Roanoke, Mt. Zion	150
Roanoke, New Hope	500
Roanoke, Rock Springs	150
Roanoke, Rock Stand	500
Shawmut, Todd	1200
Wadley, Beulah	200
Wadley, Christian	450
Wadley, Corinth	450
Wedowee, Cavers Grove	0
Wedowee, Noon Day	350
West Point, Bethel	500
Woodbury, Jones Chapel	700

First Church of Atlanta on Historic Tour

"One of the most significant structures" in the Sweet Auburn Historical District, the First Congregational Church, corner of Courtland and Houston Sts., Atlanta, Ga. was featured on the tour of American Institute of Architects in December. As a part of the district it has been nominated for the National Register of Historic Places. Church members hosted the tour.

The architectural style of the church is Renaissance Revival, but since its founding in 1867, social concern has been the style of the church membership. The building has often been the meeting ground for community leaders attempting to solve problems of civil justice, race relations and social services.

The church was one of the first black institutional churches in America. Built in 1908, the structure replaced the original red brick church built in 1867. The rear wall of the present building was retained from the original church at the insistence of the congregation. Stained glass windows depict scenes from black history as well as from the Bible. The rose window at the rear of the church is dedicated to Edmund Asa Ware, founder of Atlanta University, and was featured in an article in the April 24, 1965 issue of the Saturday Evening Post.

The interior also features a fan-type seating arrangement with a balcony supported by pipe column and a stamped tin ceiling which was characteristic of many buildings at the turn of the century, but unusual for this building type.

CONGRATULATIONS on the birth of a baby girl Dec. 24, 1975, to Rev. and Mrs. John Giles (Asst. Pastor, 1st Church, Atlanta) Name: Jenee' Valeski.

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Hunger Program at Pleasant Hill

The 1975 General Synod-backed attack on hunger has gotten underway with a series of regional consultations with UCC conference leaders and local church officials. In its current issue, A. D. reports what local churches are doing, such as, using a "Lord's Acre" to work cooperatively and raise food for the hungry, sell products and give money, eating less grain-fed beef, drinking less beer, skipping an occasional meal and giving the money, having a dish on the family table for "tips" (offering for feeding hungry), seeing no food is wasted in home or restaurant. Some churches

have sacrificial dinners.

At a recent Fellowship Supper, the meal consisted of: rice and a sauce made of split pea puree, called dahl in India. For dessert — fresh apple or applesauce. Each guest received an envelope to put in the cost of a restaurant meal. At the end, \$328.55 was collected — actual cost of meal served was \$15.00, so we sent \$313.55 to Church World Service to feed hungry people.

For the program, former missionaries told about different areas in the world, and a nutritionist from the Tenn. Dept. of Public Health, talked about malnutrition.

More News Briefs

Rev. George Hawkins, pastor of First Congregational Church, Montgomery, Ala., is a busy person these days — pastoring the Church, serving as an Advisor to Freshmen at Alabama State University, and working on his Master's Degree in Counseling and Guidance at Alabama State. The Youth Group at the Church numbers 19, the Men's Fellowship has regular monthly meetings, and there are 5 Sunday School classes with increasing attendance.

According to a recent Newsletter, Brooklawn, Louisville, Ky., feels that emphasis now should be on children with problems stemming from broken homes, neglect, abuse, and other conflicts, rather than on food, shelter, and protection because of family breakdown, the original purpose.

Presentation of Soil Stewardship Sermon awards took place at the Rivermont Holiday Inn in Memphis, Tennessee on December 9, 1975, at the annual convention of the Tennessee Association of Conservation Districts. A Certificate of Appreciation was presented to Mr. Seymour along with \$60 in cash.

Mrs. Lena Stevens, long-time member of the Lanett Church, died Jan. 7, 1976, at the age of 85.

Blackwood Church, Headland, Ala., had a bountiful harvest this year of peanuts, the principal crop. The church expressed "thanks to God" Nov. 23, with a Harvest Day Festival. Families brought gifts to the altar totaling more than \$1300. Following a stirring Thanksgiving sermon by Pastor Wayne Newton, a covered dish dinner was enjoyed by all. In September, the church installed padded pews and carpet in the sanctuary debt-free. (Dora C. Brackin)

First United Church of Christ in Belvidere, Tennessee, gave an offering of \$900 for World Hunger. To this amount \$100 was added by the consistory, making a grand total of \$1,000 for World Hunger.

On November 16, 1975, six new members were received into the church.

New Treasurer of SE Conference



J. R. Wilson Jr. [left] and James K. Rowland close out the financial year.

J.R. Wilson, Jr., new Treasurer of Southeast Conference, and James K. Rowland, Bookkeeper and Administrative Assistant in the Southeast Conference Office, closed out financial records for the year 1975 together.

Mr. Wilson owns and operates Wilson Realty Company, 905 Hunter St., NW, in Atlanta, Ga. 30314. His residence is 1487 Mozley Dr., SW, Atlanta, Ga. 30314. He was elected Treasurer in June, 1975, and is a member of First Church, Atlanta.

S. L. Johnson Honored

At a special congregational meeting on November 30, former pastor, Dr. S.L. Johnson was elected Honorary Pastor Emeritus of Pilgrim Church, Birmingham. His installation took place at the Annual Meeting on January 21. This honorary title is bestowed in recognition of his service to Pilgrim Church and of his continuing effectiveness as a representative of the church in the community.

On Sunday morning, December 7, the Pilgrim Church in Chattanooga honored three charter members of the church: Mrs. Winifred Brown, Mrs. Helen Gager, and Mrs. Esther Shepherd.

"WHEN I WAS HOMELESS - -"

Nearly everyone knows the words of Jesus; "When I was hungry, you gave me food, when thirsty, you gave me drink; when I was a stranger you took me into your home, when naked you clothed me; when I was ill you came to my help, when in prison you visited me" (Matt. 25:35f NEB). Today, Jesus might have said, "When I was homeless, you helped me." At least it must seem that way to the 135,000 Vietnamese refugees who arrived in the U.S. a year ago.

Church World Service, one of seven voluntary agencies that undertook resettlement of these refugees, has helped over 15,000 of them. Of these, the United Church Board for World Ministries has taken responsibility for about 1000 people.

One such case in Southeast Conference is Central Congregational Church, Atlanta, Ga., which was suddenly welcoming a young couple from Vietnam just before Christmas, after making application a few weeks before Christmas. Tran Kien Nam, age 36, and his wife, Tu Bang Kieu, age 21, were met at the Atlanta Airport Dec. 17, by members of Central Church. This couple fled the Viet Cong, were airlifted to Hong Kong, where they waited six months until November 1st to come to Fort Chaffee for resettlement. They were among the last refugees settled and Fort Chaffee closed officially December 20. Church World Service worked with Central church in the resettlement.

Nam and Kieu, married four years ago, lived in Saigon in the largest Chinatown outside of China. Nam owned his own home and his own hairstyling shop for nine years. Kieu was his assistant. When they fled the V.C. they left their home and shop, all their possessions, Nam even lost his contact lenses in the flight, but did manage to carry out a small package containing

his hair cutting tools.

This couple are of Chinese ancestry and speak Chinese (Cantonese) and Vietnamese but virtually no English. Communication has been a real challenge, but one couple from the church gave them temporary housing, while several helped teach English, helped by an interpreter. The Church has renovated the downstairs of the house used upstairs by Southeast Conference, and made an apartment for them. Members of the congregation have contributed clothes, furniture, food, money, and anything they could. Nam has found a job in a hairdressing Salon in Atlanta, and is building up a clientele, helped by Central Church women and others. A box for contributions still remains in the corridor of the church, for anything the people want to give. Some are contributing money regularly on a monthly basis. Nam learned enough English to thank the congregation Sunday, Jan. 11.

Is your church thinking about sponsoring a refugee family? "Take the risk!" advises one who had done so. While the 135,000 Vietnamese refugees have now been resettled, there remain 68,000 in refugee camps in Thailand. For information, call or write: Ms. Elfriede Kohl, Division of World Service, United Church Board for World Ministries, 475 Riverside Drive, New York, N.Y. 10027.

SHIP SHAPE

(Photo from LaGrange College)

LAGRANGE, GA. — Dr. Charles F. McCook, left, and Dr. David I. Naglee, LaGrange College religion professors, put the frame of a kayak in ship shape. After the frame is covered in canvas and painted, the kayak is ready for the water. The professors are building the boats for use by a church youth group on the West Point Lake. Dr. Naglee is senior minister of preaching at the United Congregational Christian Church of LaGrange, while Dr. McCook serves in like manner at Oak Grove Church, Pine Mountain, Ga.

Folks in LaGrange may get an uncomfortable feeling when they see two college religion professors hard at work building a boat — if it's raining!

But Dr. David Naglee said there is no cause for alarm — they are not constructing an ark, they're building Kayaks.

The kayak is a light, fast, canoe-like craft which originated with the Eskimos. "A kayak is one of the simplest crafts, and yet one of the most dependable and easiest to handle," said Dr. Naglee, who is something of an expert. "It is one of the most utilitarian structures for water transportation devised as yet," he said. The boats will be used for recreational and camping purposes. Material costs about \$20 each, and assembly takes about 3 hours.



LAGRANGE, GA. — Dr. Charles F. McCook, left, and Dr. David I. Naglee, LaGrange College religion professors, put the frame of a kayak in ship shape. After the frame is covered in canvas and painted, the kayak is ready for the water. The professors are building the boats for use by a church youth group on the West Point Lake. Dr. Naglee is senior minister of preaching at the United Congregational Christian Church of LaGrange.

SPECIAL TO: Southeast News — United Church of Christ, Rev. W.J. Andes, Editor, P.O. Box 29883 [2684 Clairmont Road, N.E. O Atlanta, Ga. 30329]

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The Task Force on Hunger in Georgia reported on its work as did the Bicentennial Committee. In cooperation with the Georgia Bicentennial Commission and the American Bible Society, the GIA is printing large quantities of a bicentennial leaflet for wide distribution in 1976.

The Georgia Interchurch Association was formed in 1971 as the successor organization to the Georgia Council of Churches. Fourteen Christian communions in the State of Georgia are participants with the head of each judicatory and one assistant comprising the Executive Board. The GIA is the officially recognized ecumenical agency in the State of Georgia.